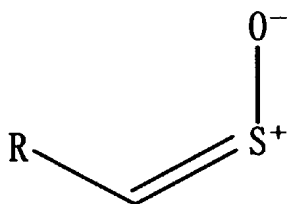


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A reagent for lacrimation examination, comprising as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula:

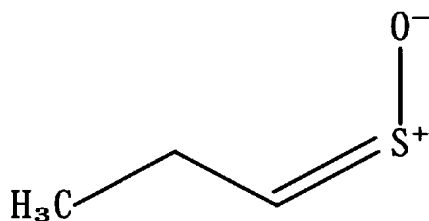
[Chemical formula 1]



wherein R represents a C₁₋₅ alkyl chain.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): A reagent for lacrimation examination, comprising as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula.

[Chemical formula 2]



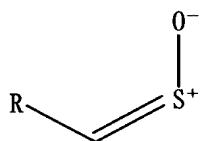
Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The reagent for lacrimation examination according to claim 1, which is used for examining dry eye.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A lacrimation examination kit, comprising:
the reagent for lacrimation examination according to claim 1; and

an exposure container used for exposing the eye to the reagent for lacrimation examination, the exposure container being used to cover the eye in a state in which the inner side thereof faces the eye after the reagent for lacrimation examination is placed in the exposure container.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A method of lacrimation examination, the method comprising:
exposing, in a non-contact manner, an eye of a subject to a the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprising as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula:

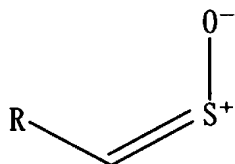
[Chemical formula 1]



wherein R represents a C₁₋₅ alkyl chain according to claim 1.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A method of lacrimation examination, the method comprising:
an exposure step of exposing, in a non-contact manner, an eye of a subject to a the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprising as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula:

[Chemical formula 1]



wherein R represents a C_{1-5} alkyl chain ~~according to claim 1~~;

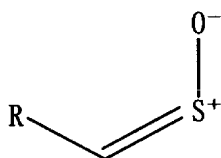
a stimulation measurement step of measuring a length of time from the time when the exposure step is started to the time when the subject feels the stimulation, or a degree of stimulation felt by the subject at a certain time point after the start of the exposure step.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A method of lacrimation examination, the method comprising:

an initial tear volume measurement step of measuring a tear volume of a subject in an initial state (the initial tear volume);

an exposure step of exposing, in a non-contact manner, an eye of the subject to a the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprising as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula:

[Chemical formula 1]



wherein R represents a C_{1-5} alkyl chain ~~according to claim 1~~;

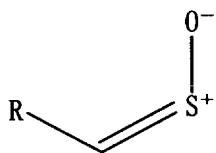
a tear volume measurement step of measuring a tear volume of the subject at a certain time point after the exposure step (a post-exposure tear volume) and/or monitoring a increase with time of the tear volume until that time point; and optionally,

a calculation step of calculating the difference in the tear volume in the subject between the initial tear volume and the post-exposure tear volume.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of lacrimation examination, the method comprising:

an exposure step of exposing, in a non-contact manner, an eye of a subject to a the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprising as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula:

[Chemical formula 1]



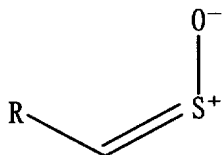
wherein R represents a C₁₋₅ alkyl chain ~~according to claim 1~~; and

a tear volume measurement step of measuring a tear volume of the subject at a certain time point after the exposure step.

Claims 9 -10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A lacrimation promoter composition, containing as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula:

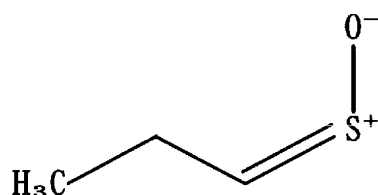
[Chemical formula 3]



wherein R represents a C₁₋₅ alkyl chain.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A lacrimation promoter composition, containing as an active ingredient a compound represented by the following chemical formula.

[Chemical formula 4]



Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The lacrimation promoter composition according to claim 11, which is used for prevention or treatment of dry eye.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A lacrimation promoter kit, comprising:

the lacrimation promoter composition according to claim 11; and
an exposure container used for exposing an eye to the reagent for lacrimation examination, wherein the exposure container is used to cover the eye in a state in which the inner side thereof faces the eye after the lacrimation promoter composition is placed in the exposure container.

Claim 15 (New): The method of lacrimation examination according to claim 5, wherein exposing, in a non-contact manner, the eye of the subject to the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprises placing the reagent in the vicinity of the eye, instead of directly dropping the reagent into the eye.

Claim 16 (New): The method of lacrimation examination according to claim 5, wherein exposing, in a non-contact manner, the eye of the subject to the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprises placing a predetermined amount of the reagent into a container; and covering the eye with the container with an inner side of the container facing the eye, whereby the eye is exposed to the reagent without direct physical stimulation given to the eye.

Claim 17 (New): The method of lacrimation examination according to claim 5, wherein exposing, in a non-contact manner, the eye of the subject to the reagent for lacrimation examination, comprises placing a predetermined amount of the reagent onto a filter paper;

placing the filter paper in a container; and covering the eye with the container with an inner side of the container facing the eye, whereby the eye is exposed to the reagent without direct physical stimulation given to the eye.